

All-Wards Meeting  
Neighborhood Planning Assemblies (NPA)  
Wednesday, January 17th, 2018 from 06:30 PM to - 08:30 PM  
Robert E Miller Center (130 Gosse CT.)  
(Community Room)  
Draft Minutes

Meeting Start Time: 6:37pm

**Steering Committee Members present:** Richard Hillyard-Ward 1, Infinite Culcleasure-Ward 3, Jeff Clark-Ward 4, Linda Deliduka-Ward 7, Martha Molpus-Ward 7, Chris Trombly-Ward 7, Jim Holway-Ward 7, Charles Simpson-Ward 6, Nate Orshan-Ward 5

Roles: Moderator – Jim Holway, Steering Committee Ward 4

**Open Forum:** All Wards Memorial Auditorium resolutions have been report out to all NPAs and it's up to each the NPA to decide what they want to do about these resolutions. According to some Councilors, Miro is having engineers look at Memorial and there has been a change in direction and may be on the November ballot. The NPAs have no teeth because the resolution has no teeth and legal power. Need to change the resolution. City Council has a platform but NPAs don't have a platform. Back in the day, there was more resources and NPA had more clout but now the NPAs don't have any standing. When NPAs do get their act together then can be effective. For example, the Memorial Auditorium All Wards forum made an impact to question how we as a community take this forward. This All Wards forum influenced the Mayor moving forward. To hear that two Mayoral candidates are looking at NPAs as a citizen group is very good. Anything that moves people to get involved is a good thing. City Council needs to take our resolutions and respond back to NPAs. Attendance is still an issue to some NPAs. One solution to increase engagement is Facebook live streaming. Charter change requires going to the legislature. In order for All Wards to be effective need more communication, coordination, and participation. Many of the NPAs did report the after results of the All Wards Memorial forum but after this there was lack of follow up. Each NPA is autonomous with different amount of leadership and need to look at this at next All Wards. Charles Winkleman posted on Front Porch Forum (FPF) that BOVE has over 70 violations but yet project was passed. This is indication of bad landlords not getting penalized but rewarded instead.

**Burlington Needs to Hold Slumlords Accountable**

Charles Winkleman • [cwinklem@gmail.com](mailto:cwinklem@gmail.com) • College Street

[Discussion](#)

The city council recently did business with local slumlord Rick Bove in overwhelming support, voting 9-3. It seems that the 70 housing code violations the Bove family amassed over the past few years, did not factor into the minds of our elected leaders. The priority to build up our downtown core seems more important to our city than ensuring that working class residents can live with dignity. As our city continues to grow, now is the time to create more protections for our most vulnerable neighbors, to ensure that slumlords like Rick Bove are held responsible for their actions.

A little background is needed to understand why I would make such a bold claim against a renowned Burlington family. Over the past 4 years the Boves have amassed over 70 housing code violations on their 16 properties, not far behind notorious slumlord Soon Kwon, with one property falling into such disrepair it was condemned by the city and tenants were forced to move. According to Seven Days, in 2013 the city even held their liquor license hostage so that the Boves would pay and fix over 40 housing code violations.

Rick Boves response to Seven Days? You can write whatever you like, it doesnt matter to me. Clearly, it also doesnt matter to him what terrible, heartbreaking conditions his tenants live in. At my NPA, I wanted to understand why slumlords like the Boves are given countless chances to change without any serious repercussions or consequences. While it was heartening to hear Councilor Roof admit that the Boves have been slumlords for decades, it was discomfoting to know that he and other elected officials have done little (to little effect) to curb these criminal behaviors. Several councilors even stated that the ends, more housing in the city, justified the means, slumlords being encouraged to develop and own more property in Burlington.

One would think our elected officials should be doing everything in their power to discourage criminal behavior, and recognize that positive ends rarely justify destructive means.

Why are landlords allowed to have outstanding fines for so long? Why hasnt the city council enacted and funded more vigorous protections and enforcement? What are they now going to do to start addressing a long-ignored problem?

There is some hope coming from our Code Enforcement Director, Bill Ward. He has been working with a city attorney to find ways to revoke landlords rental licenses when they act like slumlords and amass many fines.

While this is a really great start, now more than ever we need to ask our elected leaders to ensure all residents have stable, safe housing, and that landlords who racks up fines will be held responsible particularly by the city taking away their rental license, and refusing to do business with them until they have made a long-term effort to change their past behavior.

**Meghan O'Rourke Channel 17/Town Meeting TV-Live Stream Feed:** No Show

**Town Meeting Ballots and Candidate's Forum:** Wards 1 and 8 wants to make sure that all NPAs are on the same page of what is happening within all NPAs when presenting on the ballot

items. It's healthy that ballot items are discussed at NPAs. Some items are; F-35, smoking in parks, dispatch center, Climate Action. Brian Pine and Max Tracy on the 29<sup>th</sup> is proposing a Luxury tax. Ward 1 and 8 will be combining City Council and School Board. One suggestion is having an All Wards Candidate's forum and not just individual NPA doing their own candidate forum. This will give time for local candidates to have air time. Ballots get released too late for NPA to put it on the NPA agenda. There are two ways that items get on the ballot; citizen advocacy and City Council. Every ballot item gets put on differently and there's no one way. The language on the ballot is very confusing. Maybe NPAs can be a mechanism to formalize getting items on the ballot? All Wards Candidate forum should be in an accessible location and be live stream. Does the All Wards want to explore implementing this for this year or next election? Each NPA can do their own neighborhood issue still. Maybe not have enough time for March but for November will have more time to organize. Need to have more funding because when have budget of significant amount then the City Council have will pay attention. NPAs used to have 40-50k to do projects that improved the neighborhoods. The NPA money used to come from Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Now City Council gets the same amount of funds in their Community Funds.

**Phet Keomanyvanh-NPA Budget Update and Community Development Week Celebration:**

Each fiscal year, the NPAs gets a total budget of \$3200.00. Out of this budget, each Ward is allocated \$400.00. CEDO manages the NPA budget. Steering Committee members expensing personal finances to support NPA operations are encourage to submit for reimbursement. NPA Reimbursement is simple and Phet Keomanyvanh will help Steering Committee members through the process. Steering Committee members receiving first time reimbursements from the City will need to submit a W-9 form along with the Vendor Request form and their receipt. The Vendor Request Form will need to be signed by another Steering Committee member of your NPA for approval. The City's fiscal year ends June 30<sup>th</sup> but all NPA receipts and forms are due to Phet Keomanyvanh two weeks prior to June 30<sup>th</sup> for processing. Attached is the NPAs current budget balance. This year Community Development Week falls on April 2-6, 2017. On April 4<sup>th</sup> CEDO will be hosting a Community Development celebration in Contois Auditorium to highlight CDBG and Herb Bloomenthal Community Action Award. CEDO will invite CDBG recipients to table and NPAs as well. NPA's 35 anniversary can also be highlighted as well.

**Closing comments/Action Items:**

GDBG money used to be given out in smaller grants but since there's less money, the funds are allocated in large grant chunks. The history was where NPA funding was taken out before CDBG

allocation process. This way NPAs didn't compete with other organizations. Request that Noelle come to next All Wards. There is a concern that City Hall controls all the money. Even if there is City Council Funds, City Hall still holds all the money. When the NPAs did hold the money, there was more capacity for civic engagement. CEDO has always assisted to support the NPAs to execute meetings and is the only Department written into the resolution. Vote for doing a City Wide forum was voted down for March. Will put this on next agenda in April to discuss roles of an All Wards forum for November election. Next All Wards date is changed to April 17, 6:30pm. Location is 130 Gosse Court, Miller Center and Richard Hillyard will facilitate. Jim Holway can be backup facilitator. Request for CEDO to change the Community Development Celebration space from City Hall to the Miller Center. This space is more assessable in parking and entry for seniors.

Meeting End: 8:30pm

Meeting Minutes taken by Phet Keomanyvanh-CEDO